not to cause such embarrassing situations at their airports in future; and

(d) if so, whether the Air India management has cautioned its employees not to undertake excursions with families during the rush period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) A number of Air India employees and their families were stranded at Singapore airport in May, 1993. These employees were having free tickets, which were valid for travel on space available basis. Due to sudden demand at Singapore from fare paying passengers, these employees, who held free tickets could not be accommodated and had to stay at Singapore airport. The airport authorities advised Air India to ensure that such instances do not recur. This was reported in the newspapers also.

As a result of this incident, Air India has taken steps to close all flights to Singapore for travel by Staff prior to commencement of the peak season.

New air services

1380. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start Air Services on Pune-Aurangabad-Nanded Bombay and Nasik-Pune-Bombay sector; and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir. Commercial and operational constraints at present do not permit operation of services on these routes.

(b) Does not arise.

Improvement of air-service to Nagaland

1381. SHRI VIZOL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that it takes two days to reach Nagaland by air;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that local air-service connecting Calcutta and Dimapur is available for four days in a week;

(d) whether such service is very irregular causing inconvenience to passengers;

(e) whether Government propose to take some measures to improve the Air Service on this sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines operates two flights a week between Calcutta-Dimapur on Tuesday and Thursday from 1.8.1993. Same day convenient connections have also been provided over Calcutta for passengers travelling from Delhi to Dimapur.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Due to crew constraints, the frequency of the thrice weekly Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur service was reduced to twice weekly, effective 1.8.1993.

Settlement of demands of Indian Airlines Pilot

1382. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister had assured the Indian Airlines Pilots in January, 1993 that their demands would be settled at the earliest and on this assurance their strike was called off on January 24th; and